

Minutes of the Grinnell City Council Meeting Tuesday, September 7, 2004

The City Council of the City of Grinnell met in regular session in the Council Chambers of the Grinnell Community Center, 927 4th Avenue, Grinnell, Iowa, at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, September 7, 2004. Mayor Canfield presided.

Roll Call: PRESENT: Elliott, McNaul, Witt, Wilson, White, Worley.

Before the Mayor proceeded into the agenda, he swore in the new Fire Chief – Daniel Sicard – for his first day of service.

PERFECTING AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Moved by MCNAUL, second by WORLEY, to approve the Agenda and the Consent Agenda as printed. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: McNaul, Worley, Witt, Elliott, Wilson, White. Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- o Previous minutes as drafted from the Monday, August 16, 2004 Regular Session.
- o Approval of the Class LC Liquor License Renewal for Rabbit's Tavern, 721 4th Avenue.
- o Approval of the Class BC Liquor License Renewal for Casey's General Store, 1718 6th Avenue.
- o Approval of the Class LA Liquor License Renewal for Grinnell Faculty House, 1303 Park Street.
- o Approval of the new Class C Liquor License Application for the Trustees of Grinnell College, 1011 Park Street.
- o Approval of the Grinnell-Newburg Dollars for Scholars request for the use of a portion of Central Park for the annual "Dogs for Dollars" event.
- o Approval of the Chamber of Commerce request in regard to the 2004 Grinnell High School Homecoming Parade route to be held Thursday, September 23, 2004.
- o Acceptance of the resignation submitted by Renaissance Director Bill Menner.
- o Acceptance of the resignation submitted by Police Officer Matthew Maschmann.

APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Moved by WHITE, second by WILSON, to pay all bills where funds are available. Roll Call: Ayes: White, Wilson, McNaul, Witt, Worley, Elliott. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- I. Public Works and Grounds: Thursday, August 12, 2004 and Monday, August 16, 2004
- II. Finance Committee: Monday, August 16, 2004.
- III. Planning Committee: Monday, August 16, 2004 and Thursday, September 2, 2004.
- IV. Memorial Commission: June, 15, 2004, July 19, 2004, Wednesday, August 18, 2004.
- V. Stewart Library: Monday, August 23, 2004.
- VI. Renaissance: Tuesday, August 24, 2004.
- VII. City Council Special Session: Tuesday, August 31, 2004.

OLD BUSINESS:

- I. Report from the Finance Committee.
 - o Recommendation in regard to the Lang Creek Crossing Development Agreement.

The committee will continue to review the agreement and has no recommendation at this time.

- o Recommendation in regard to the bids received for the sale of police equipment.

Moved by WHITE, second by ELLIOTT, to award the bid to Cheyka Motors of Schofield, WI for the amount of \$14,758.00.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Elliott, Witt, Worley, McNaul, Wilson. Motion carried.

- o Recommendation in regard to the request for assistance from the Iowa Transportation Museum.

Moved by WHITE, second by ELLIOTT, to support the concept of the grant applications to the IDOT and Vision Iowa on behalf of the Iowa Transportation Museum. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Elliott, McNaul, Wilson, Witt, Worley. Motion carried.

- o Recommendation in regard to Hotel/Motel Tax.

The committee discussed raising the tax from 3 to 7 percent based on acceptance by the voters. The current tax collection will expire March of 2006. The committee will take action on this item at a later date.

- Discussion in regard to utility account deposits and utility bill format.

White discussed the proposal for enhancing the postcard utility bills to make them more user friendly to the citizens. Changes proposed include clarifying code explanations and possibly adding the math formula for converting cubic feet to gallons. Elliott did note that there is a key on the back of the bill that describes the various line item charges. Even if the codes change, the key will remain to define what they are.

- Recommendation in regard to the requests for assistance from the Campbell Fund.

The requests were approved as presented.

- Project update from POW I-80.

White noted the possible expansion of Wildwood Foods. Staff continues to work diligently to put together an incentive proposal.

- Review of Water Department Capital Improvement Projects.

White reviewed the proposed water department capital improvement needs including equipment, water storage and main improvements/replacements.

- Recommendation in regard to the recreation lease between the City of Grinnell and Grinnell College.

Moved by WHITE, second by ELLIOTT, to approve the recreation lease. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Elliott, Witt, Worley, Wilson, McNaul. Motion carried.

II. Report from the Planning Committee.

- Discussion in regard to the proposed amendments to the city code referring to the planting of trees in the right of way.

Worley informed the council that the committee did vote to support the concept of planting trees in the right of way, however the ordinance and concerns in regard to funding the maintenance of the trees still remain. Wilson questioned if a list would be provided to detail the kinds of trees that would be acceptable plantings. Worley responded that there will be several lists separating what types of trees can be planted in various sites and what types of trees cannot be planted at all. The committee will continue to work on the ordinance. White questioned when the new ordinance will be complete. Worley said that spring would likely be the earliest that plantings would resume.

- Recommendation in regard to the requests for planting trees in city parks.

Worley reviewed the requests for the planting of trees from Kamal Hammouda and the Sesquicentennial Committee.

Moved by WORLEY, second by MCNAUL, to forward the requests for the planting of the trees to the Park Board. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Worley, McNaul, White, Wilson, Elliott, Witt. Motion carried.

Elliott questioned the concept of ground level plaques and that guidelines should be created for their placement. The Planning Committee will review the suggestion.

- Recommendation in regard to the placement of monuments in the cemetery.

Worley reviewed the work of a local committee to create a monument in Hazelwood Cemetery next to the flag pole and Veteran's graves. The memorial would be 5' tall by 4' wide and made from granite. Donations to the monument may be made to the committee members or Grinnell State Bank. Projected cost of the monument will be between \$7,000 to \$8,000.00.

- Discussion in regard to the regular meeting time for the Planning Committee.

Worley reviewed the current regular time for the Planning Committee and announced that they have chosen to reschedule their date and time. The committee will now meet on the Thursday prior the regular council meeting at 6:30 pm.

- Recommendation in regard to the request by Linda Routier in regard to the Lights of Love.

Worley explained the problems with the current program due to vandalism. Staff is researching the cost of installing additional outlets. The committee is also considering the placement of additional walkway lights in central park. The planning committee realizes this request needs to be submitted to the Public Works and Grounds Committee and Finance Committee for further review as cost estimates are prepared by staff.

- o Recommendation in regard to the sign ordinance.

Worley read the proposed amendment.

Moved by WORLEY, second by ELLIOTT, to introduce and conduct the first reading of ORDINANCE NO. 1236: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF GRINNELL, IOWA BY ADDING PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO CHAPTER 4, SECTION 4-45(1) (Signs in the C-2 central business district.)" Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Worley, Elliott, Witt, White, McNaul, Wilson. Motion carried.

- o Discussion in regard to the Central Business District Banners.

Worley explained the proposal by Grinnell Renaissance to purchase a new set of banners for the Central Business District. The proposal will be canvas banners to include the city's new logo and Jewel of the Prairie slogan. The total project cost will be slightly more than \$5,000.00 for the purchase 72 banners. The Planning Committee will review the proposed banner policy for its final approval. Elliott supported the creation of several types of the banners to dress up the community – such as having contests for creativity.

- o Review of the Lang Creek Crossing Development.

The committee continues to review the project jointly with the Public Works and Grounds Committee.

III. Report from Public Works & Grounds Committee.

- o Recommendation in regard to the award of contract for the South Highway 146 Water Main Project.

Elliott discussed the bids received for the construction of a water main extension, however the council did not award the bid at the time received due to remaining issues that needed to be resolved with the development. She further stated the items still remain outstanding, however the committee feels enough progress has been made to award the bid. She reminded the council that the second independent reason for completing the construction is the need for above ground water storage on the south end of the town, especially for fire protection. Elliott explained that the above ground storage would be constructed on the land owned by the city adjacent to the airport.

Moved by ELLIOTT, second by WHITE, to award the bid with the understanding that there is a second reason for the completion of this project aside from the Lang Creek Crossing Development and that the development agreement defines the connection fees will be paid by the developer to help offset the installation cost of the new main, to the low bidder Synergy of Clive, Iowa. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Elliott, White, McNaul, Wilson, Worley, Witt.

Elliott concluded this item by stating it is not currently included in the fiscal year budget. Staff continues to research the ability to charge a fire protection to rural water customers who will reap the benefit of the added protection. Worley clarified this project will not need to be bonded to be completed and the city will eventually recoup the fees from added connections. The council recognizes that it will take a long period of time to collect the connection fees; however the city could use TIF to recoup the cost if needed.

- o Recommendation in regard to the request by Dave Ditzler on behalf of Jewel Kintzinger for improvements to a retaining wall.

Elliott explained that the committee has authorized staff to negotiate a method of completing the construction with the property owner to resolve the issue. The committee will report again on this item at a later date.

- o Recommendation in regard to the request by the Optimist Club in regard to the placement of flags.

Elliott discussed the project proposed by the Optimist to install sleeves in the right of way for the placement of flags periodically throughout the year. Elliott said the committee had concluded that they could not support the placement of the sleeves in the right of way. They suggested that the Optimist Club research above ground removable poles for the project. The Optimists will review the suggestions and will report back to the committee.

- o Review of the Name that Creek contest guidelines.

Four creeks are referred to within the city limits of Grinnell as unnamed creeks. The city has concluded the research on how to make the naming official through registering the names with the geological survey department.

- o Recommendation in regard to the request by Verlan and Lori Vos in regard to the construction of a staircase in the alley.

The committee will resolve this request at their next regular meeting.

- o Final acceptance of the Arbor Lake water line and Hobart Street Place water main and sanitary sewer main.

Moved by ELLIOTT, second by WITT, to accept the Arbor Lake water line. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Elliott, Witt, Worley, Wilson, McNaul, White. Motion carried.

Moved by ELLIOTT, second by WITT, to accept the Hobart Street Place water main and sanitary sewer main. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Elliott, Witt, White, McNaul, Wilson, Worley. Motion carried.

- o Recommendation in regard to scheduling a public hearing for the following projects: 10th Avenue Water Main for September 20, 2004 at 7:00 pm with bids being received until Thursday, September 16, 2004 at 2:00 pm and for the construction of a Compost Facility for Monday, September 20, 2004 at 7:00 pm with bids being received until Thursday, September 16, 2004 at 1:30 p.m.

Moved by ELLIOTT, second by WITT, to schedule the public hearing for the Water Main at 10th Avenue Main for September 20, 2004 at 7:00 pm with bids being received until Thursday, September 16, 2004 at 2:00 pm. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Elliott, Witt, Worley, McNaul, Wilson, White. Motion carried.

Elliott discussed the compost project and that it has several objectives including closing the brush dump permanently, to work toward a prohibition of most open burning and eventually accept food composting. The estimate of cost for preparing the site exceeds what the committee originally anticipated due to additional dirt work required.

Moved by ELLIOTT, second by WITT, to schedule the public hearing for the construction of a Compost Facility for Monday, September 20, 2004 at 7:00 pm with bids being received until Thursday, September 16, 2004 at 1:30 p.m., specifically instructing the City Manager to identify the additional funding needed to complete the project as proposed and clarifying the city reserves the right to reject all bids. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Elliott, Witt, Wilson, Worley, McNaul, White.

Please Note: This proposal does not set a date for the closing of the existing brush dump.

- o Recommendation in regard to the final acceptance of the 2004 Sealcoat Street Improvement Projects.

Moved by ELLIOTT, second by WITT, to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2703: "RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WORK (2004 Sealcoat Street Improvements.)" Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Elliott, Witt, White, Worley, McNaul, Wilson. Motion carried.

- o Recommendation in regard to the final acceptance of the 2004 Asphalt Street Improvement Projects.

Moved by ELLIOTT, second by WITT, to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2704: "RESOLUTION ACCEPTING WORK (2004 Asphalt Street Improvements.)" Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Elliott, Witt, Wilson, White, Worley, McNaul. Motion carried.

- o Recommendation in regard to the proposal from Promap in regard to the Storm Water Utility.

This proposal will provide layered maps of utilities and permeable and impermeable surfaces to assist with the determination of fees associated with the new storm water utility. The total cost of the proposal is \$12,500.00. The work will not be completed until early spring. This is a budgeted item.

Moved by ELLIOTT, second by WITT, to approve the proposal as submitted by Promap. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Elliott, Witt, Wilson, McNaul, White, Worley. Motion carried.

Witt questioned how these items will be updated. Anderson said that once the data is created, staff should be able to modify the maps in house.

NEW BUSINESS: NONE.

SECOND READING OF THE ORDINANCE:

Moved by ELLIOTT, second by WITT, to conduct the second reading of ORDINANCE NO. 1237: "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF GRINNELL, IOWA BY ADDING PROVISIONS PERTAINING TO CHAPTER 18.5-SOLID WASTE. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Elliott, Witt, Worley White McNaul, Wilson. Motion carried.

APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTIONS:

Moved by WHITE, second by WILSON, to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2701: "A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AS SUBMITTED FOR PROPERTY AND REQUEST TAX EXEMPTION FOR THIS IMPROVEMENT ACCORDING TO CHAPTER 404 OF THE STATE CODE (Lawrence and Shannon McNaul, 120 Broad Street South.)" Roll Call Vote: Ayes: White, Wilson Witt, Worley, Elliott, Abstain: McNaul (conflict of interest). Motion carried.

Moved by WORLEY, second by WILSON, to approve and adopt Resolution No. 2702: "A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AS SUBMITTED FOR PROPERTY AND REQUEST TAX EXEMPTION FOR THIS IMPROVEMENT ACCORDING TO CHAPTER 404 OF THE STATE CODE (Ramsey Weeks, Inc., 715 5th Avenue.)" Roll Call Vote: Worley, Wilson White, McNaul, Elliott, Witt. Motion carried.

INQUIRIES:

Canfield announced political signs are not allowed in the right of way and stated that if they are currently located there, property owners need to remove them. Otherwise the police will be removing the improperly located signs. The signs must be placed behind the sidewalk or 25' from the street. This is a state law. The police will not notify property owners of the improperly placed sign; the sign will simply be removed.

White commented on the number of complaints received in regard to noise and outdoor concerts. This item was referred to the Planning Committee for review.

ADJOURN:

Moved by WHITE, second by ELLIOTT, to adjourn this regular session of the Grinnell City Council. Vote: (6) ayes, motion carried.

ATTEST:

Gordon Canfield, Mayor

Cassandra R. Hage, City Clerk